



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Hagerman Fossil Beds
National Monument

Minidoka National Historic Site

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Hagerman Fossil Beds – Minidoka News Release

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National Park Week – April 16 -24

The staff at Hagerman Fossil Beds National Monument and Minidoka National Historic Site invite you to visit the parks during National Park Week, the annual celebration of the national park idea – America’s best idea. Superintendent Wendy Janssen noted, “National Park Week is a wonderful time to explore our nation’s 394 parks and we welcome everyone to the national treasures in our backyard – both Hagerman Fossil Beds National Monument and Minidoka National Historic Site.”

Highlighting National Park Week at Hagerman Fossil Beds will be the reopening of the monument on April 16th. The monument, which has been closed since last summer’s wildfire, will be the scene of restoration work this spring and into the fall.

Activities at Hagerman Fossil Beds National Monument include:

Saturday, April 16

9 am – 5 pm: Visitor Center – Explore the exhibits and view the park film

10 am – 2 pm: Snake River Overlook – Visit with a Park Ranger

Learn more about the impacts of last August’s wildfire and the rehabilitation efforts that will commence this spring. The 3 mile trail will be open for those who would like to experience the Oregon Trail on foot.

Saturday, April 23: Junior Ranger Day

9 am – 5 pm: Visitor Center – Explore the exhibits, view the park film, and see the new Junior Ranger Exhibit

10 am – 4 pm: Visitor Center – Grow Your Own Native Plants

Stop by the Visitor Center between 10 am and 2 pm and participate in the “Grow Your Own Native Plants” activity and program. Park Rangers will help you plant native seeds that you can take home and put in your own garden.

Although the National Monument will reopen on April 16, the Oregon Trail Overlook will remain closed for renovations. This summer, look for new picnic shelters and a redesigned

parking area with new accessibility features. New entrance signs will be installed at each end of the Monument.

Visitors to the Monument will also see activity related to the restoration of the natural ecosystem. A crew from the American Conservation Experience (ACE) will be installing erosion material and planting sagebrush near the Oregon Trail Overlook starting April 27.

Activities at Minidoka National Historic Site include:

Sunday, April 17: Minidoka Entrance Area

1 - 2 pm: Visit with a Park Ranger

Learn more about this important site that documents the Minidoka War Authority Relocation Center. A Park Ranger will answer questions about the center, also known as “Hunt Camp,” where over 13,000 Japanese Americans were incarcerated from Alaska, Washington, and Oregon during World War II. The site is coming alive this spring with the return of two buildings to Barrack Block 22, construction of a walking trail and the installation of wayside exhibits, and the dedication of the “Honor Roll” on July 3.

2 – 3 pm: Walking Tour of the Site

Join a Park Ranger for a tour of the site to learn about the history of the camp from 1942-1945 and get an advance preview of the upcoming changes.

Those visiting the Snake River Overlook on April 16 and Minidoka NHS on April 17 should have weather-appropriate clothing, sturdy shoes, and water. The tours are weather permitting.

For more information call the Visitor Center @ (208) 933-4127 or visit www.nps.gov/hafo or www.nps.gov/miin.